

Driver Education and Evaluation Programs

Office of Substance Abuse

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

The Issue in Maine:

- ❑ There were 6,863 OUI arrests in Maine in 2009.
- ❑ There were 42 alcohol-related fatalities on Maine's highways in 2008.
- ❑ A total of 3,571 OUI offenders participated in the DEEP program in SFY 2010.

Maine's Driver Education and Evaluation Programs (DEEP) are the therapeutic countermeasures that address the high-risk behaviors that result in an Operating Under the Influence (OUI) offense in an effort to prevent future offenses and alcohol- and drug-related crashes.

DEEP seeks to increase every impaired driver's knowledge regarding the risks of alcohol and drug abuse and to provide insight into his or her own level of risk, and to assess the offender's level of harmful involvement with alcohol and/or other drugs to determine if the offense was an unusual circumstance or if it was the symptom of a larger substance abuse problem. Maine's Risk Reduction Program, Under 21 Program, and PRIME Solutions treatment curriculum make certain that each and every offender is assessed, with the goal of enhancing the safety and well-being of the citizens of the State of Maine.

Program funding is revenue neutral, with client fee of \$300.00 covering all costs. DEEP client fees are the lowest of all six New England states, and makes Maine's program fees fair and affordable. Access to services is an issue in a rural state such as Maine, so DEEP programs are offered in 20 communities statewide, from Presque Isle in the north, to Saco in the south, to Machias in the east, and to Rumford in the west.

Programs:

- ❑ 20-hour Risk Reduction Program for adult OUI offenders.
- ❑ 16-hour Under 21 Program for offenders under 21 years old at the time of the offense.
- ❑ Use the PRIME for Life OUI education curriculum, recognized as an Evidence-Based Best Practice by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- ❑ PRIME Solutions treatment curriculum to compliment education experience, also an Evidence-Based Best Practice.
- ❑ Offer reciprocity for out of state OUI programs when offenders live in Maine and have an out of state offense, or live in another state and have an offense in Maine.
- ❑ Offer reciprocity for active military offenders who complete the required program for their branch of the service, at a reduced fee.

Program Goals:

- ❑ To make sure that every OUI offender receives education that decreases the risk for a subsequent offense.
- ❑ To assess each offender's level of harmful involvement with alcohol and other drugs.
- ❑ To ensure that those individuals identified at high risk receive the evaluation and/or counseling they need.



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